

Meet The Faces Of Influenza

(NAPSA)—Are you a “face” of influenza? More than two out of every three people in the U.S. are. In fact, more than 200 million people are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to receive the influenza vaccine annually. Despite these recommendations, immunization rates fall short every year.

Influenza is serious. On average, approximately 226,000 Americans are hospitalized and 36,000 die from the disease and its complications each year.

The American Lung Association’s national educational campaign, *Faces of Influenza*, is designed to help Americans put a “face” on this potentially deadly disease and recognize annual influenza immunization as an important preventive measure to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Included in the *Faces of Influenza* are famous and not so famous Americans who take influenza seriously and get immunized each year. Here are some of their stories:

Actress Jennifer Garner

Jennifer Garner is one of today’s most popular actresses in Hollywood. She is also a wife and a mother and places great value on looking out for her family’s health and well-being. That includes protecting her family from influenza and its related complications through annual immunization.

Nearly everyone in Jennifer’s life needs to be immunized against influenza—herself, her husband and their baby daughter; her mom and dad; her grandparents and great grandparents; even the doctors and nurses who care for them.

Jennifer has joined the American Lung Association as its national spokesperson for the *Faces of Influenza* public awareness initiative. She wants to educate Americans that vaccination is



a safe and effective way to prevent influenza and its complications.

She also wants each of us to ask our health care provider about vaccination.

“As one of the many *Faces of Influenza*, you and I and those close to us need to get vaccinated,” Jennifer says.

Rick Cerett

December 2003 was a time of joy for Rick Cerett and his family—his nearly six-month old twin grandchildren, Marques Maurice, Jr. and Chalise were about to celebrate their first Christmas. Then Marques came down with what the family thought was a cold.

Rick remembers it this way: “Marques came down with a fever and runny nose on Christmas Eve and the doctor said it was influenza. By Christmas day, he was having trouble breathing and nothing seemed to help.”

Within three days, Marques was dead.

The tragedy has made Rick a crusader for yearly influenza vaccinations for parents and caretakers. “You think of influenza killing older people,” he says. “But if you’re around an infant, you need to get the vaccine and, once your kids are old enough, they need to be vaccinated too.”

Hugo Alvarez, M.D.

Hugo Alvarez, M.D., knows all too well the dangers influenza and its related complications can

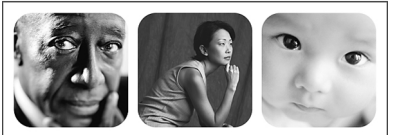
cause for people with asthma—even more so when families are not educated on the dangers of influenza and the need to get vaccinated. Dr. Alvarez works with the American Lung Association of Greater Chicago to reach the Hispanic community with important educational information and materials on how to protect themselves and their loved ones from influenza every year.

Dr. Alvarez also serves as the Deputy Medical Officer and Director for Quality Improvement with Access Community Health Network, the nation’s largest, private community health center organization, helping nearly 210,000 patients every year.

“Influenza prevention for people who live with or care for anyone within high-risk groups is critical, especially to help protect those who rely on others for their care, namely persons over 50 years of age as well as young children,” Dr. Alvarez says.

The American Lung Association asks every family to see if its members are among the many *Faces of Influenza*—high-risk individuals or those in close contact with high-risk people who should receive influenza immunizations every year. To learn more, visit the Lung Association’s *Faces of Influenza* Web site: www.facesofinfluenza.org.

FACES OF



INFLUENZA

American Lung Association’s
Influenza Prevention Program

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